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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,909	11/16/2001	Isao Kameyama	011524	7934

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EXAMINER

MCCAMEY, ANN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,909

Applicant(s)

KAMEYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Ann M McCamey

Art Unit

2833

mw

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2003 and 30 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahroni (US 6,079,848) in view of Yamamoto et al. (US 5,675,890).

Regarding claim 1, Ahroni discloses the invention substantially as claimed including:

an auxiliary device 24;

a base board 20 provided with said auxiliary device and a plurality of terminals 28 each with a pair of leading pressure contact blades with a predetermined shape; and

a case 23 in which said base board is mounted;

wherein said terminals on the base board and a connecting portion in said case are electrically connected as a connector by mounting said base board on the case; and

wherein positioning portions having a plurality of pressure contact receiving grooves (Fig. 7) each with a complementary shape as the predetermined shape of each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades so as to accommodate each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades.

Art Unit: 2833

Ahroni does not disclose each of the pressure contact receiving grooves being pre-formed. Yamamoto et al. teach pre-formed receiving grooves (between 99,101 and 103) to accommodate the contact blades of the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to pre-form the grooves of Ahroni as Yamamoto et al. teach to prevent deformation of the contact blades during mating.

Regarding claim 2, Ahroni discloses said terminals are pressure contact type terminals, wherein said connecting portion includes electric wires 19, wherein a pressure contact type connector provided with said pressure contact type terminals is mounted on said base board, wherein said case is provided with a connector housing having said electric wires therein, wherein said connector is formed by press-fitting said base board into said case to connect said pressure contact type terminals with said electric wires by pressure, wherein said positioning portions include electric wire setting portions and pressure contact blade receiving grooves, wherein pressure contact connecting of the terminal and the electric wires is done by leading pressure contact blades of said pressure contact type terminals into said pressure contact blade receiving grooves.

Regarding claim 3, Ahroni discloses a pair of said pressure contact blades formed in said pressure contact type terminal are guided by corner edges of said pressure contact blade receiving grooves.

Art Unit: 2833

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahroni in view of Yamamoto et al., as applied to claims 1-3 above, further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("A.A.P.A.").

Ahroni discloses the invention substantially as claimed, but does not disclose the auxiliary device being a camera module. A.A.P.A. teaches a camera module as an auxiliary device. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the use of the device module and use it with a camera module to improve the connection between a camera module and mating component.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/5/03 and 9/30/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant contends in arguments filed 9/5/03 that incorporating the teachings of Yamamoto et al. into the device of Ahroni would render the device inoperable, thus deeming the 103(a) rejection improper. The Examiner disagrees with this contention, since the only teaching of Yamamoto et al. used to modify the Ahroni device is the pre-forming of the receiving grooves, and not any other functions as Applicant contends. The Ahroni device would still perform its designed function with pre-formed grooves, since pre-forming grooves has no effect on the final structure, rendering the 103(a) rejection proper.

In response to applicant's argument filed 9/30/03 that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "fixing of cables when pressure contact terminals are connected with the cables") are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann M McCamey whose telephone number is (703) 305-3422. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.


Art Unit: 2833

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

AMM

November 10, 2003



RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER